donia (*Cockerell*). Type in Philadelphia Academy. The widely distributed *H.* (*Palaeohelicina*) *primeana* Gassies is considerably larger (diam. 7 to 8 mm.) and the dark band above the periphery is olivaceous, according to Anton Wagner. In the Australian Museum at Sydney I saw specimens labelled *H. primeana*, and noted that they were quite large with or without a broad rosy band below periphery.

H. (*Aphanoconia*) *lacta* Crosse, as figured by Crosse is pale pinkish, with a red band, but it distinctly shows the *H. gallina* type of markings, and has a diameter of 9 mm. Also the red-brown band is a little below the periphery, instead of above it. It came from Mt. Mou, and Wagner's *H. lacta* from Prony Bay, diam. 11, alt. 7 mm, may be distinct.

Related species occur in New Guinea, the Moluccas, etc. The type is No. 149874 ANSP.

CORRESPONDENCE

To Friends and Readers of THE NAUTILUS:—

Once more I am in Mazatlan, classic locality of Carpenter's paper on West Mexican shells. I have been in Mexico three weeks, on my way south on a conchological expedition. I had eleven quite profitable days at Guaymas, during the early January tides, walking from three to eight miles per day. The entire bay is either mud flats or rocks and mud, no sand beaches except on the outer Gulf coast. At one small point of rocks on the inner bay, about two miles from town I located a school of very fine *Fusinus colpoicus* Dall, ovipositing on the inner surfaces of dead Crucibulum shells. Two small species of Chitons were taken on the rocks in the bay, also that very interesting species *Paramentaria duponti*, which looks like a small Conus, but belongs to the family Columbellidae. In a small cove on the island on which is the inner lighthouse, I located a colony of fine *Murex radix* and *M. bicolor*, burrowing in the mud entirely below the surface. These were all fine, perfect

specimens, not worm-eaten like the average ones found on the surface of the rocks. It certainly took a lot of determination to select only two dozen of the finest and give the rest, about six dozen, to my boatman who calls them *"burras"* and said they were *"muy bueno para comer"*, which applies equally well to any kind of mollusks large enough to eat. On one of the other islands we founds some giant Pinnas, nearly twenty inches long. In La Paz these are called *"hacha"*, but here they are served for food as *"callos"*, and are really very good eating. The large central muscle only is used and is very sweet and tender, like the large scallops on the Atlantic coast of the United States. Here in Mazatlan they are used in large numbers for food, great reefs of empty shells being piled on the mud flats, literally hundreds of thousands of them, with hardly a perfect one to be found.

The Guaymas oysters are justly famous both for their size and delicious flavor. They are served at every meal at the restaurants, and can be bought from carts at one's door, where they are opened to order at only 25 centavos (12½ cents) per dozen, some of the shells being eight and ten inches in length. They are gathered outside in the Gulf near the mouth of the Rio Yaqui, so there is no danger of infection. I tried dredging for two days with a launch or "gasolena" as they call them, outside the lighthouse, with fair results on sand and broken shell bottom. The inner bay is all mud bottom.

Stopped off at San Blas and took a sixty mile auto trip to the coast at Topolobampo. The road runs the whole length of the Rio Fuerte valley through the great sugar and winter vegetable section of Los Mochis. The marine species taken were much the same as at Guaymas, however, the chitons here seem to be another species. A small Bulimus about an inch in length and an interesting Polygyra (much resembling the *P. cereolus* in (Florida) were found under rock piles on the steep hill slopes around the bay.

All the Mollusca found within several miles of Mazatlan, are as soon as large enough destined for the soup pots. The

smaller species are not disturbed so I had good luck with these and also collected five species of beautiful chitons. The large *Chiton petholatus* Sby. is used extensively for food and is called "carachas". Some grow to over three inches in length. My best collecting was done on the small islands off the coast, I tried a combination dredging and shore collecting trip in a launch to the Islas de Venado. My greatest thrill was in getting three fine living specimens of the giant *Malea ringens* under rock ledges on the windward side of the island. The animal is coal black. The natives call them "calaveras" from their fancied resemblance to a skull. I got my first giant Patella (*Ancistromesus mexicanus*) here also. They are surely hard to find, as they are hunted for food much like the Haliotis on the California coast. They also live on the outer side of the islands and are found only at extreme low water when there is not too much surf and are usually so covered with moss that they look like part of the rock to which they cling.

We also visited the island of the Light House or "Faro" and found more of the giant limpets or *"Lapas"* as they are called here. All the small species are called *"Lapas chicas"* and are all used for food. The young shells of the giant Patella look much like some of the handsome South African species. I had never seen the young shells before and at first glance, thought they were another species. On this island the fine *Leucozonia cingulata* were depositing their eggs under rocks on the windward side of the island. Some very fine *Patellipurpura patula* and *Thais biserialis* were also taken at the same place. The *P. patula* gives off when disturbed, several drops of a milky liquid which quickly turned the collecting sack a metallic green and within half on hour this changed again to a royal purple, which is a fast dye and cannot be boiled out. I suppose it is akin to the "Tyrrian purple", mentioned in history as used by royalty exclusively.

From the lighthouse on the top of this island 170 meters above the water there is a wonderful view of the whole

Mazatlan coast and the mountains in the distance. Two interesting species of small land shells were found under leaves on the thickly forested sides of rocky islet. A small point of rocks in the inner bay, near "Campo Santo", last year at this time yielded some of my choicest treasures—Mitras, several fine species of Pleurotoma and the beautiful *Murex lappa* Brod. This year the hermit crabs had changed their fashions in wearing apparel and nothing more elaborate than Cerithiums were to be seen. It simply wasn't being done this season in the best society of Mazatlan crabs.

HERBERT N. LOWE.

Mazatlan, Mexico,
February 4, 1930.

NOTES AND NEWS

THE DEATH OF DR. J. COSMO MELVILL on November 4, 1929, at the age of 84 years has been announced.

CORRECTIONS.—Through an unfortunate typographical error the name of a new snail from Kern County, California, described by the writer in the October NAUTILUS (v. 43, p. 40), is given as *Helminthoglypta tudiculata kermensis*. The proper spelling of the geographic trinomial is of course *kernensis*.—S. S. BERRY.

On page 16 of the July number, for William J. Clinch, read William J. Clench.

In the January issue of THE NAUTILUS, page 104, the ninth line in the note "Zoogenites and Carychium in Colorado" was inserted as the third line from the bottom of the note "Pododesmus macroschismus Deshayes".

PLANORBIS SILICEUS Brown and Pilsbry, Proc. Acad. N. S. Phila., 1914, p. 212, proves to be a homonym of *Planorbis siliceus* Eichwald, Lethaea Rossica III, 1853, p. 298, as I am informed by a friendly letter from Dr. W. Wenz. *P. siliceus* may now be called *Planorbis amosbrowni*, after my friend and collaborator of former years.—H. A. PILSBRY.